

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

April 2004



On average, North Central unemployment rates were closer to typical this March than last March

The March unemployment rate in **Adams County** remained below the typical March rate. Although winter job cuts in construction seemed milder than last year, so does spring hiring, so far. Only one month in the last twelve has seen leisure & hospitality post higher employment estimates than it had twelve months earlier.

Since November, **Forest County's** unemployment rates have been fairly close to typical, although this was the only county in the region with a higher rate this March than last. The rate usually peaks in February or March. Employment-by-industry estimates did not suggest big changes in March.

Since November, **Lanlade County's** unemployment rate has hovered around 1.5 percent to 1.7 percent above typical levels and remained there. The information, professional, business & other services sector has been very close to year-ago levels since September and construction has been a bit above year-ago levels.

Lincoln County's March unemployment rate was 0.1 percent closer to typical levels than February's and 1.2 percent closer to typical than last March's, but twice as far above typical as last October and November. Manufacturing employment estimates have been lower than year-ago levels for the last twelve months, and this year's December-to-March slide is not substantially gentler than last year's was.

The February unemployment rate in **Marathon County** was below the typical February rate and it declined faster than usual in March, yielding the best result of the last 12 months: 0.8 percent below the typical rate. Despite falling by 100 jobs in March, the manufacturing employment estimates for February and March were 700 higher than their 2003 counterparts, despite the fact that manufacturing estimates had been at or below year-ago levels from last March to this January.

At 1.3 percent above its typical March level, **Oneida County's** unemployment rate was closer to normal than last March (1.9% above typical) but further above normal than it had been from September to January (0.5% - 1.0% above typical).

cal). Comparing the last 12 months to the preceding 12 months, leisure & hospitality saw milder February and March job losses as well as stronger June and July job gains. From April through October 2003, the construction sector posted fewer jobs than in the same months of 2002; From December 2003 to March 2004, construction job estimates have been above year-ago levels.

In **Portage County**, the March unemployment rate was 0.4 percent above typical, which is a noticeable improvement over last March and April, when the rate was 1.3 percent above typical.

Leisure & hospitality employment estimates have remained above year-ago levels since last August, although the margin has been volatile. The information, professional, business & other services sector seems to be following last year's seasonal trends relatively closely.

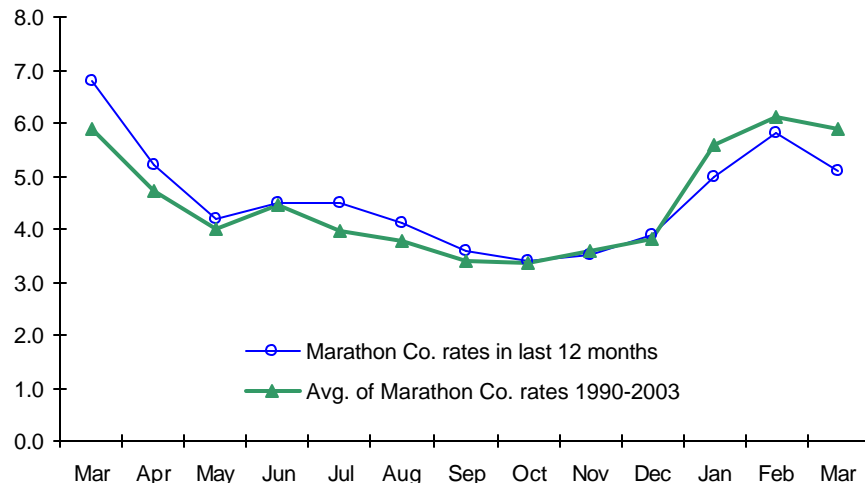
At 0.7 percent above the typical March level, **Vilas County's** unemployment rate was as close to typical as it has been at any point in the last year.

Leisure & hospitality employment grew more slowly in the summer of 2003 than the summer of 2002, and shed fewer jobs this winter than last.

Wood County's unemployment rate was about 1.1 percent above its typical March level, which is relatively consistent with the last twelve months. Construction employment estimates continue to follow last year's seasonal trends fairly closely, as do leisure & hospitality and transportation, warehousing & utilities estimates.

We need assistance from multiple worksite employers. We ask employers with operations in multiple locations (work sites) in Wisconsin to complete a Multiple Worksite Report. Individual employers' responses remain confidential; only aggregate data is published. We suppress any aggregate data that might allow inferences about a specific employer. We thank nearly 3,300 reporting employers with over 25,000 work sites. Without their cooperation, this newsletter and other products and services would not be possible. For more information, please contact **Deb Holt** at (608) 266-5321.

Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



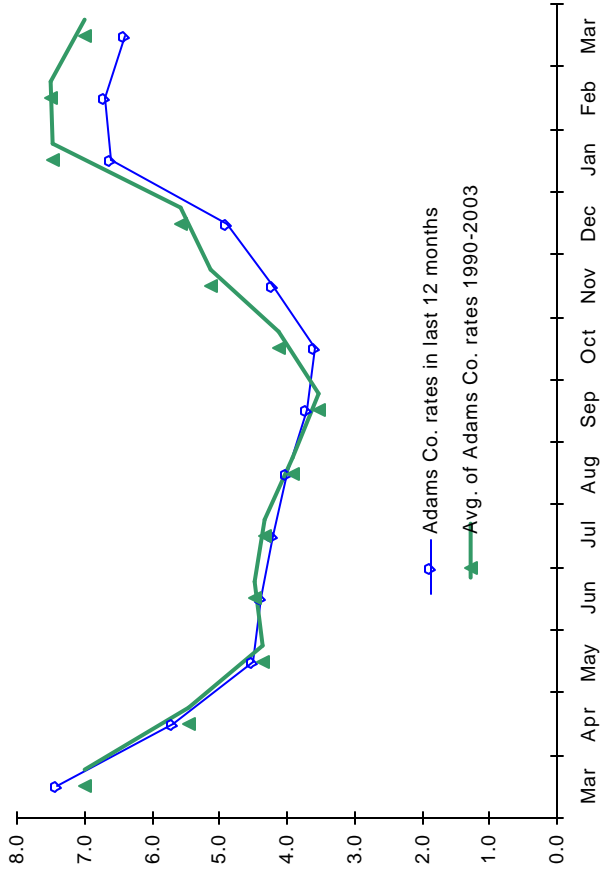
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted										
	Wisconsin		Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln	
	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,761,400	13,400	34,800	3,800	40	-30	3,300	10	-50	-80
Const., min'g & nat. resources	117,600	4,800	7,800	180	10	20	70	0	310	0
Manufacturing	499,500	-1,600	-4,700	430	-10	-20	320	0	-120	-40
Trade (wholesale & retail)	430,000	3,100	11,500	470	10	-10	290	0	1,680	10
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	104,700	100	1,400	130	0	-10	150	0	370	0
Financial activities	158,800	-700	3,800	90	0	0	100	0	780	10
Education & health services	375,500	700	13,600	470	0	10	370	0	960	0
Leisure & hospitality	235,100	2,400	8,500	420	10	-30	170	0	960	0
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	420,800	2,200	-300	370	10	20	180	0	1,010	0
Government	419,400	2,400	-6,800	1,220	-10	-20	1,610	0	2,100	40
Civilian Labor Force**	3,092,800	-6,800	46,000	8,200	10	-20	5,000	10	15,000	-130
Employed	2,901,700	2,200	64,700	7,600	40	70	4,600	-20	13,600	-110
Unemployed	191,200	-9,000	-18,600	520	-30	-90	480	40	1,420	-20
Unemployment rate (%)	6.2	-0.3	-0.7	6.4	-0.3	-1.0	9.5	0.7	9.8	-0.1
	Marathon		Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood	
	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change	Mar 2004	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	69,100	500	1,100	17,000	80	70	32,900	-40	43,300	340
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,500	100	200	980	30	50	880	30	1,490	60
Manufacturing	17,900	-100	700	1,340	-10	-110	4,500	-10	7,100	0
Trade (wholesale & retail)	13,500	100	-500	3,700	0	70	5,300	-30	6,100	50
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,800	0	100	420	0	-20	1,870	0	3,200	50
Financial activities	4,900	0	100	540	0	10	3,900	-10	1,190	0
Education & health services	7,200	0	400	3,100	10	-20	3,300	-10	11,100	70
Leisure & hospitality	4,800	100	-100	2,100	30	170	3,300	30	2,700	20
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	7,300	200	100	2,200	20	0	3,900	90	4,900	20
Government	8,200	100	100	2,600	10	-70	5,900	-140	5,500	60
Civilian Labor Force**	78,000	-330	1,140	21,100	100	270	39,700	-420	42,100	-80
Employed	74,000	220	2,400	19,300	120	380	37,300	-170	38,900	170
Unemployed	4,000	-550	-1,240	1,840	-20	-110	2,400	-240	3,100	-250
Unemployment rate (%)	5.1	-0.7	-1.7	8.7	-0.1	-0.6	5.9	-0.6	7.5	-0.6

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers = 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

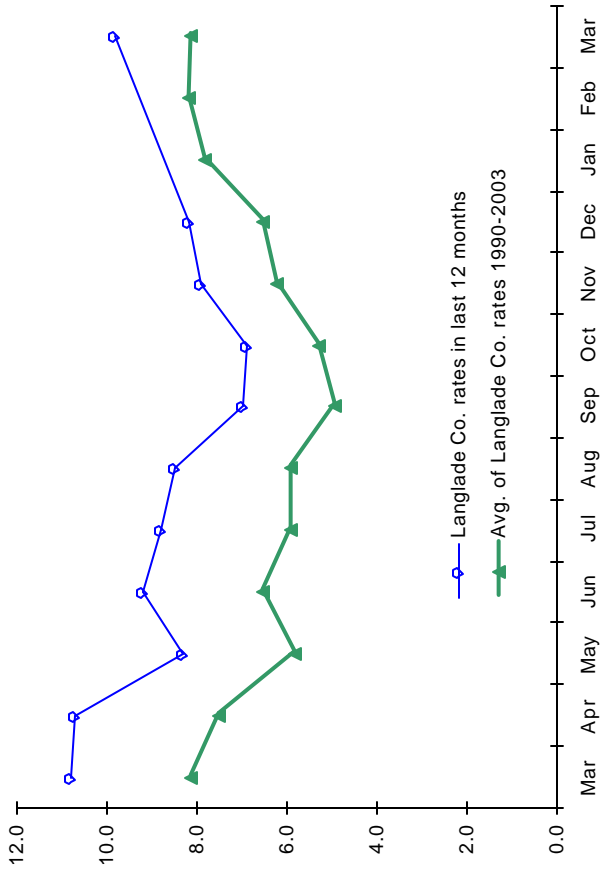
*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608) 242-4885; email dan.barrollnet@dwd.state.wi.us; or see <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/fmi>.

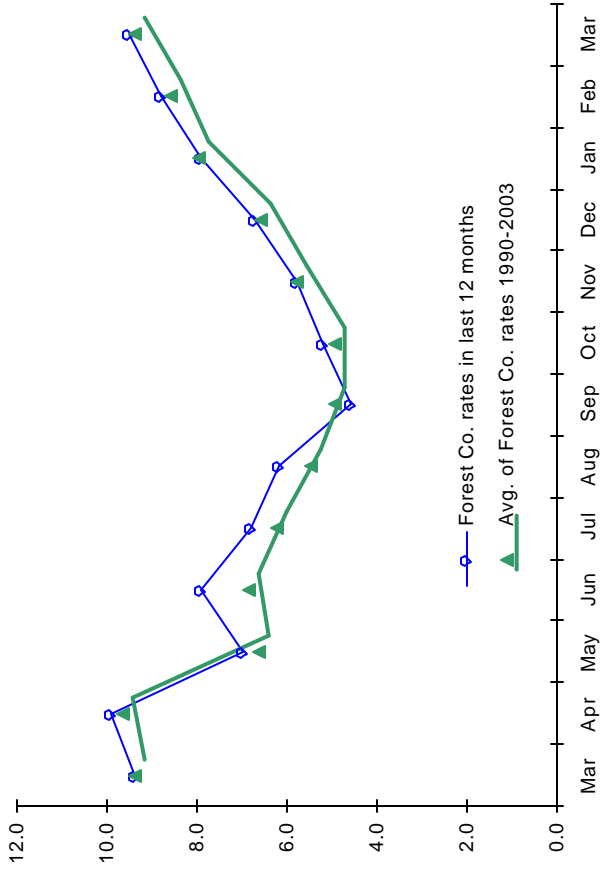
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



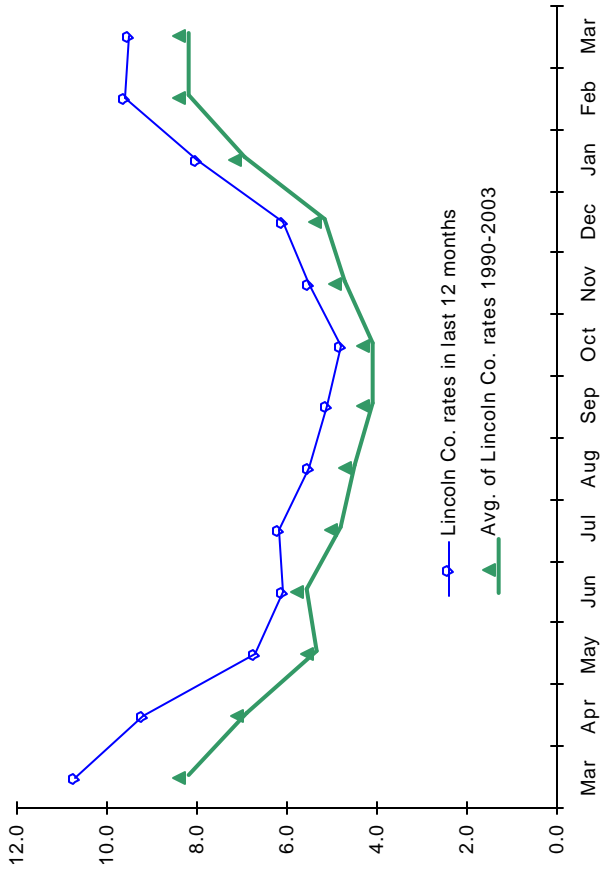
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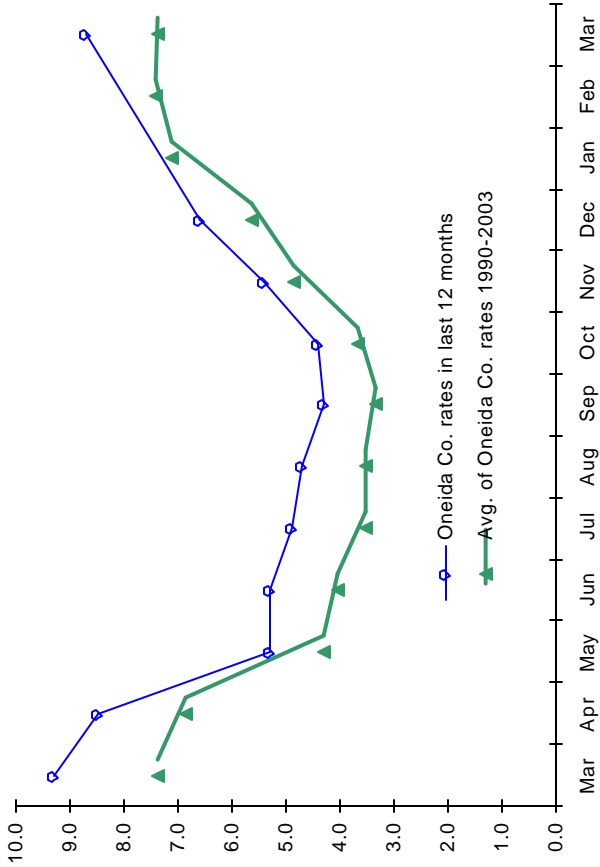
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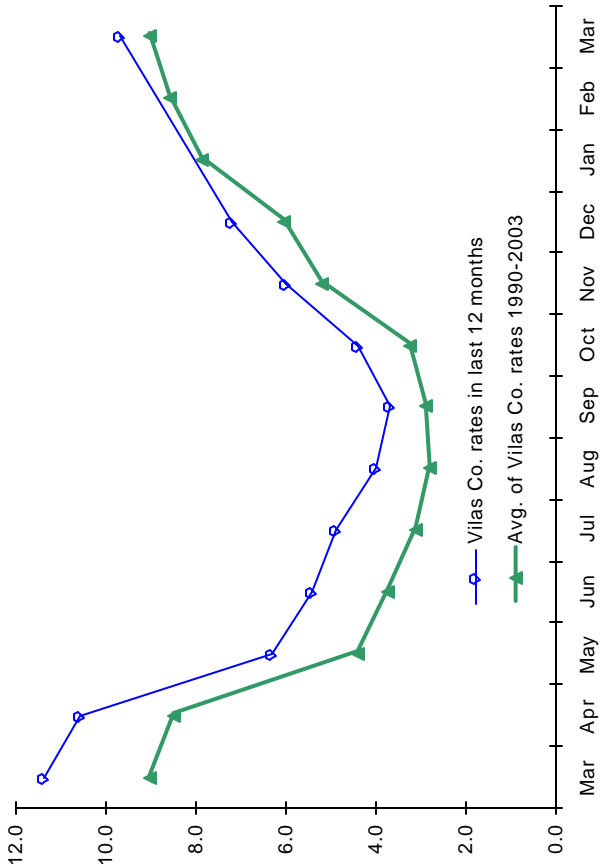
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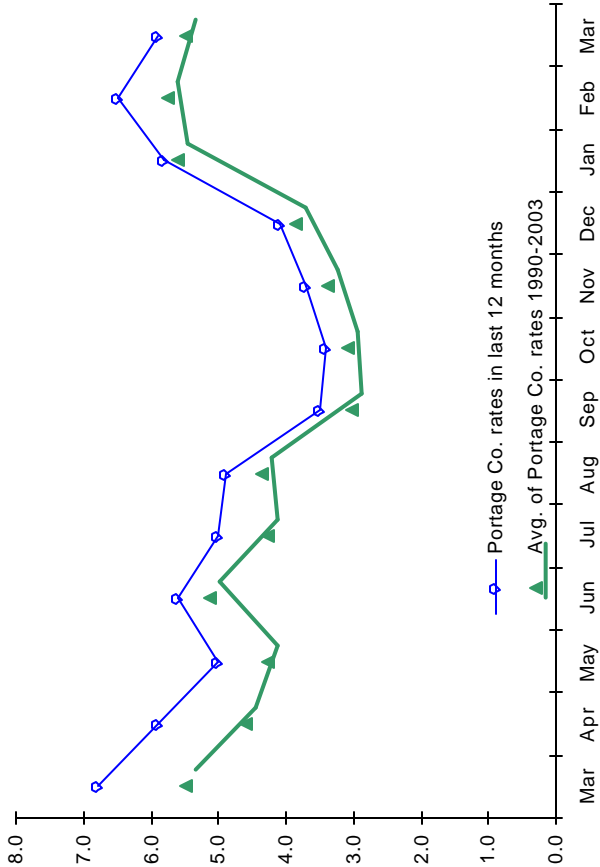
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